in the other ranges, it was collected on the share system as usual. The small decrease in outturn and receipts in Ahmednagar call for no remarks.

218. In the Poona division hirda was collected on the share system, while in the Sátára division it was gathered departmentally; and the results are very satisfactory in both divisions, owing to a greater demand for this myrobalan of commerce, and in consequence to the better prices attending the departmental auction sales.

II.—REMOVAL OF PRODUCE BY PURCHASERS.

(1).—TIMBER.

219. The outturn, in cubic feet, of timber removed from the forests of the several divisions of the Northern Circle, by consumers and purchasers at their own expense, is exhibited in the following statement, with the amounts realized, as compared with the results of the previous year :—

No.	Division.	1890-91.				1891-92.			
		Timber in the rough; logs.	Timber in the rough; poles.	Miscellaneous.	Amount realized.	Timber in the rough; logs.	Timber in the rough; poles.	Miscellaneous.	Amount realized.
		C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	Rs.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	Rs.
1	North Thána ...	...	1,125,498	...	2,69,773	...	970,950	...	250,307
2	South Thána ...	...	1,610,172	...	1,19,251	...	563,670	...	96,413
3	East Khándesh ...	242,700	...	...	4,929	213,000	...	...	4,354
4	West Khándesh...	...	...	123,888	10,110	...	...	213,750	8,884
5	Násik	387,169	...	...	16,817	641,262	...	...	33,483
6	Ahmednagar ...	...	...	1,045	243	...	...	305	158
7	Poona	97,645	93	...	202	193,632	142	...	235
8	Sátára	1,391	473	...	778	...	2,230	...	801
9	Sholápur... ...	...	...	130	124	...	...	129	176
10	Surat	34,899	1,883	281,700	37,786	...	...	...	33,320
11	Panch Mahals ...	218,202	50,787	61,185	47,247	2,307	17,117	17,772	55,230
	Total ...	982,006	2,788,906	467,948	5,07,260	1,050,201	1,554,109	231,956	4,83,366

220. In the North Thána division 160 coupes, laid out in different blocks of the Working Plans series, by the Surveyors of the Working Plans Branch, were offered for sale, but out of them 136 only found purchasers. In the South Thána Division 102 new coupes and 21 unsold coupes of the previous year excluding the Karjat and Khálápur ranges, were offered for sale, and 98 were sold. The average price per acre in North Thána remained unchanged, but in the South Thána division it went below the average of the preceding year, owing to the unfavourable situation of the coupes, the inferior quality of the material they contained, and to some extent to the Railway Company having enforced their traffic rules more strictly, by enhancing the cost of transport per waggon-load of timber.

221. On the whole, the coupe system in Thána has been very successful, but it may happen that for some years to come all the coupes offered for sale will not attract purchasers; however, if some coupes do remain unsold and unexploited, it does not follow that it is a matter for regret, so long as local supply is not affected; the timber unmarked in the coupes for being felled and removed is not mature and does not deteriorate or depreciate by keeping for a year or two longer; the system of working applied to the Thána forests is a compulsory one owing to the presence of certain local conditions or factors. If coppice at a certain age does not sell, it does not harm by being given a longer period of existence, unless it has been grown specially to produce a rafter or a pole of certain dimensions or age. Rules 21 and 22 of the rules of September 6th, 1892, published under Section 75 (*a*) of the Forest Act, prescribe how unsold coupes are to be treated.

222. In the two divisions of the Khándesh Collectorate there is a greater falling off this year than ever, and this is attributed to the general depression caused in trade by the partial failure of the staple crop of the district and the price of cotton having ruled low.

223. The outturn of the Násik and Poona divisions is derived from the royalty trees outside the demarcation line, while that of the Ahmednagar, Sátára and Sholápur is from the sale of dead and fallen timber, and compares favourably with the results of the preceding year.

224. In the Surat division prices ruled low in consequence of a slack demand coupled with the increasing supply from the Thána forests to feed the Yeola and other timber markets above the ghâts, which used formerly to draw their supplies mainly from the Dángs.

225. The result of the Panch Mahâls Division compares favourably with that of the past year.

226. The following statement exhibits the quantity of fuel removed by purchasers, either by contract or on permits issued on payment of fees in advance at their own cost, together with the revenue realized as compared with the preceding year. The results are extremely satisfactory:—

Division.	Firewood in Cubic Feet.		Receipts.	
	1890-91.	1891-92.	1890-91.	1891-92.
	C. ft.	C. ft.	Rs.	Rs.
North Thána	1,517,820	1,204,388	5,173	6,905
South Thána	698,763	1,659,862	1,722	1,507
East Khándesh	1,960,560	1,135,280	10,831	9,459
West Khándesh	100,305	167,900	3,346	3,394
Násik	51,336	90,568	1,671	1,381
Ahmednagar	45,004	62,797	2,966	3,480
Poona	19,207	42,849	6,150	8,315
Sátára	7,337	9,854	284	468
Sholápur	1,170	1,692	830	4,337
Surat	.....	.....	254	787
Panch Mahâls	291,653	239,400	1,992	2,294
Total ...	4,693,155	4,614,590	35,219	42,327

227. Bamboos were removed by purchasers and consumers from the forests of all divisions of the Northern Circle except Sholápur (where there are none), either by contract or on the permit system, in head-loads, cart-loads, &c., and the following table compares the results of the year with those of the previous one. Here, again, the results are highly satisfactory:—

Division.	1890-91.				1891-92.				Remarks.
	Bamboos removed.			Amount realized.	Bamboos removed.			Amount realized.	
	Cart-loads.	Head-loads.	Number.		Cart-loads.	Head-loads.	Number.		
				Rs.				Rs.	
North Thána	...	...	111,419	9,284	8,560	...	240,887	10,663	
South Thána	377	3,018	202,721	5,610	740	1,843	303,922	7,489	
East Khándesh ...	...	...	380,000	4,660	...	...	407,845	4,674	
West Khándesh ...	...	...	153,270	1,755	...	...	171,782	2,600	
Násik	151	895	203,838	5,042	...	9,989	196,203	4,702	
Ahmednagar	...	...	28,087	287	...	...	32,847	342	
Poona	...	...	104,134	1,102	...	...	148,422	1,540	
Sátára	...	3,096	80,200	708	...	1,968	14,675	329	
Surat	...	...	483,906	10,949	...	...	727,032	16,306	
Panch Mahâls	56	4	127,426	1,667	99	4	143,378	1,661	
Total .	584	7,013	1,803,001	41,074	9,399	13,804	2,392,993	50,306	

228. The following statement shows the realizations from minor produce such as hirda, apta and temburni leaves, tarwad and shembi bark, honey, wax, fruits, stones, earth, kárvi, &c., removed from the forests of the several divisions of the Northern Circle by consumers and purchasers as compared with the results of the last year. In West Khándesh the loss is chiefly on Rosha oil stills, in

Ahmednagar in consequence of there being no outstandings of the previous year to collect, while the gain in other divisions is due to favourable prices having been obtained in the sale of hirda, apta and temburni leaves, &c. On the whole the results are very satisfactory :—

Division.	Amount, 1890-91.	Amount, 1891-92.
	Rs.	Rs.
North Thána	3,655	4,902
South Thána	1,946	2,266
East Khándesh	964	1,208
West Khándesh	12,607	8,097
Násik	3,394	4,544
Ahmednagar	1,547	1,370
Poona	4,470	7,414
Sátára	2,669	3,340
Sholápur	95	541
Surat	1,400	2,225
Panch Mahális	1,730	1,942
Total ...	34,477	37,849

III.—FREE GRANTS OF FOREST PRODUCE.

229. The following is a comparative statement of free grants of timber made by Revenue Officers in almost all cases during the last three years, from the forests of the several divisions of the Northern Circle :—

No.	Division.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.
1	North Thána	340	73	1,633	...
2	South Thána	1,166	168	3,049	652
3	East Khándesh	...	...	...	210
4	West Khándesh	159	45	142	714
5	Násik	368	267	217	177
6	Ahmednagar	4	297	10	139
7	Poona	817	539	519	709
8	Sátára	85	354	699	...
9	Solápur	...	...	...	...
10	Surat	194	...	790	15
11	Panch Mahális	307	193	1,547	535
	Total ...	3,440	1,936	8,606	3,151

IV.—PRODUCE REMOVED BY RIGHT-HOLDERS AND UNDER PRIVILEGES.

230. It is entirely impossible to give an exact estimate of the value of the forest produce removed by privilege-holders, as the exercise of privileges is not restricted to fixed times, and is not limited, in most cases, to a defined quantity. It is at the same time very difficult to arrive at any correct knowledge of the value of the exploitations of timber, firewood and other forest produce taken out of the forests free of charge by forest villagers, wild tribes and others, for domestic use, or for sale. The free pasturage enjoyed by cattle of forest villagers inside Reserved Forests alone represents a considerable amount. It would be incorrect to enter an estimate which might require six or seven figures to show it, as the entry of hypothetical figures in an administration report is objectionable.

V.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF FOREST PRODUCE.

231. In North Thána imports of forest produce are insignificant and comprise merely a small quantity of Moulmein teak required for the better class